GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3020
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2003
HIGHER EDUCATION
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow private sector participation in Higher Education as reported in DainikJagran, dated 29th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details and terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Union Government and the State Governmentare providing huge amount of grants for higher education to every students;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to review its policy and take effective measures to improve the fee structure and help the poor students in getting education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a) & (b): Though the major responsibility for funding of higher education rests on the Government, in pursuance of the directive of the National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in1992, non-governmental organizations/voluntary agencies are also encouraged to participate in the educational development in the country across all sectors of education. Besides, the Government has recently set up Bharat Shiksha Kosh to mobilize extra budgetary support for bridging the gap in actual requirements and the available budgetary resources for various educational purposes.

(c), (d) & (e): The Government considers the amount spent on higher education as an investment in human resources and has been consistently increasing Plan allocations for this sector. However, with a view to generating additional internal resources and also to bring about a greater seriousness of purpose about higher education, the Government has recently asked the University Grants Commission for rationalization of fees in university/college system in general and the institutions funded by the Central Government through the UGC in particular. At the same time, the UGC has been asked to ensurethat the upward revision of fees is necessarily accompanied by greater availability of educational loans through commercial banks as also by provision of liberal free-ships and scholarships to SCs, STs and other disadvantaged groups.